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DOC News, January 23, 1985

Maine Department of Conservation

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DOC NEWS

Volume IV - Number 2
January 23, 1985

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RETRO CHECKS

- The Division of Administrative Services reports that they hope to issue all retroactive salary increase checks this week. It's possible, however, that some of the paperwork will not get done in time despite their best efforts. If you don't receive your retro check this week, and your co-workers do, please don't dismay; we haven't forgotten you. We'll get your long-awaited and well-deserved payment in the mail to you as soon as possible.

ANNUAL MEETING

- DOC supervisors will soon receive registration forms for the Annual Supervisors Meeting set for February 26-27 at the Augusta Civic Center. Safety, time management, legislation, budget, and agency mission and goals are on the agenda. Suggestions for other topics are requested; send them to Will Harris in Personnel. Entertainment is planned for the evening of the 26th.

BAXTER PARK FORESTER

- A cooperative working agreement signed today by the Baxter State Park Authority and the Maine Forest Service provides the full-time services of a forester for the Park's 28,000 acre Scientific Forestry Management Area. Under the agreement, the Baxter Park Authority will provide annual funding for the forester, necessary equipment and office space. The MFS will supervise the forester and pledges the cooperation of the Management & Utilization Division and related insect and disease detection/protection programs.

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAPS

- A map showing over 1,700 miles of Maine snowmobile trails is now available from the Snowmobile Division. The map includes the Interconnecting Trail System (ITS) on one side and four State-administered trail systems located in Greenville, Island Falls, Beddington and Mount Blue-Rangeley on the other side. Single copies of the map are free and "very popular" according to Frank Farren, Snowmobile Division Supervisor.

TRAVEL VOUCHERS

- Effective January 8, all travel expense vouchers submitted must have the traveler's social security number listed. Vouchers received without the travelers SS# will not be paid so to avoid delay, make sure you put the number on when submitting.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFUNDS

- A recent arbitrator's ruling has directed the State to pay 50% of the total dependent health insurance coverage for each employee. This means that the State will now pay the total dependent coverage for those employees with split contracts. Furthermore, the arbitrator ruled that the State would refund deductions made on dependent coverage from employees with split contracts. The deductions for dependents of those of you on split contracts ceased on the last pay period. The refunds are currently being processed by the office of the Employee Health Insurance Program. If you have questions regarding this change, you should direct your inquiries to that office at 289-3626.

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SCHOLARSHIP - For several years, the Maine Forest Service has provided money for the James C. Durham Scholarship Award which is given to a forestry student at the University of Maine at Orono. Any DOC employee who has a child currently enrolled in Forestry at UMO is eligible. Contact Bob Umberger for details at 289-3897. Funds for the scholarship are derived from timber sales from a 100-acre Northport woodlot established for the support of the scholarship by the heirs of James C. Durham. The Maine Forest Service manages the woodlot.

BRIEFLY STATED - Joe Forti, Regional Supervisor of Region "D", has been elected Vice President of the Mid-Coast Law Enforcement Association. This group covers the area from Belfast to Bath and is one of eight Regional Law Associations within the Parent Group known as the Maine State Law Enforcement Assn. Joe has been a member for 18 years...Glenn Angell, LURC, has been elected to chair the Land Use Planning and Design Working Group of the New England Society of American Foresters...On January 17, Walter Anderson, MGS, and Judy Kany appeared on WCBB's "Statewide" to discuss low-level radioactive waste disposal in Maine...Joe Kelley, Marine Geologist, received a Sea Grant to study Casco, Sheepscot, and Machias Bay in conjunction with other University of Maine at Orono personnel.

STUDY TOUR SLIDE SHOWS - Greg Foster, Public Lands, has begun a series of slide presentations on the study tour of Scandinavia which he participated in this past Fall. Greg was chosen to take part in the Society of American Foresters-sponsored forest management study tour by an anonymous fellow-SAF member, who offered to pay $\frac{1}{2}$ the base cost of the trip. One request was that Greg would hopefully take appropriate notes and slides during the tour and, upon return, pass on to his fellow foresters and forest community in Maine, what he saw and learned; Greg is now filling this request by giving presentations to a number of groups, including the Downeast RC&D Forestry Committee, the Western Maine Forest Forum and to DOC employees at a brown-bag lunch slide show. In addition to the tour, Greg was able to be reunited with a Swedish exchange student who had spent one year with Greg's family.

CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANS - On January 15, a group of volunteers representing all DOC bureaus, met to plan the 1985, that's right, the 1985 DOC Christmas party. After you've stopped laughing, please join in the effort. The basic reasons behind such an early meeting is the desire to avoid last-minute planning and the belief that long-range planning and information campaigns will encourage more participants. One goal is to raise enough money through fund-raising so that we can have a "free-at-the-time" Christmas party. Our first step towards this goal is placing bottle deposit boxes on each floor. We're seeking ideas from everyone for fund raising and would also like to hear from people as to what they would like to see at the party. For starters, we're planning a slide show and are seeking humorous, or otherwise, slides. Bureau representatives are Don Moen, MFS, Lin Gosselin, LURC, Carolyn Lepage, MGS, Carol Holden, BPL, Dick Dyer and Andrea Erskine, I&E, and Commissioner Anderson. Please contact your representative with any ideas, comments, or slides. If you would like to join us in planning the party, you're welcome to attend the next meeting on March 6. We would also like to have input and participation from people in the field offices. Call anyone listed above for more info.